

October 26, 2000

## **The Republican Majority**

### ***Putting People Before Politics***

*Republican members of the 106<sup>th</sup> Congress can point proudly to an array of accomplishments — we paid down the debt; lowered trade barriers; strengthened our education system by returning decision-making power to parents; reduced the costs of prescription drugs; addressed critical military readiness, recruitment, and retention issues; and enacted legislation to defend Americans against ballistic missile attacks. Yet, more would have been accomplished had not the President and Democrats in Congress stymied issues important to the American people. A Republican Congress and a Republican President will put people before politics and will enact legislation that improves the lives of all Americans.*

#### **Republicans would enact *real* tax relief for all Americans.**

- **Marriage Penalty Relief.** We passed, but the President vetoed, \$1,400 in tax relief for the average middle-income married couple. That tax relief was designed to reduce the overall family tax burden — currently the highest since World War II — and reduce or eliminate the significant tax penalty many couples face just because they are married.
- **Death Tax Relief.** We passed, but the President vetoed, a repeal of the unpopular death tax. This legislation enjoyed broad-based, bipartisan support in both the House and the Senate, as both Republicans and Democrats joined together to help preserve family farms, family businesses, and communities from this destructive tax.
- **Social Security Tax Reduction.** We passed, but the President vetoed, a repeal of the Clinton/Gore tax on Social Security benefits imposed on middle-income seniors.
- **Middle-Class Tax Cut.** We passed, but the President vetoed, almost \$800 billion in tax relief over ten years — the largest middle-class tax cut since the time of President Reagan — which would provide tax relief for every individual who pays taxes, for families and small businesses. This relief would have reduced overall tax complexity while protecting Social Security.

#### **Republicans would provide quality health care and retirement security.**

- **Patients' Rights.** Republicans held firm against the President's and Democrats' desire to let trial lawyers bring unlimited lawsuits against employers who voluntarily offer health coverage, which would cancel coverage for 2 million Americans. We would give patients

more control over their healthcare decisions *and* make health insurance more affordable with reforms like medical savings accounts and other relief for the uninsured.

- **Medicare Reform and Prescription Drugs.** We would embrace the principles of the Bipartisan Medicare Commission to preserve and protect the Medicare benefits of all seniors while offering current and future seniors increased healthcare opportunities, including a Medicare prescription drug benefit.
- **Social Security Lockbox.** We would enact a real Social Security lockbox that would set aside Social Security surpluses for debt reduction and Social Security reform only — no new spending — but the Democrats blocked us five times.

### **Republicans would strengthen America's schools — not the education bureaucracy.**

- **Greater Accountability.** We would make schools accountable to parents by requiring them to increase student achievement for their lowest-performing students and to publicly report their success or failure. We would provide parents of children in failing schools with more opportunities to send their kids to higher-performing public schools and more control over the services their child receives.
- **Greater Flexibility and Local Control.** We would allow states and local schools the flexibility to use federal funds as they see fit to meet the local needs of the children they teach instead of complying with red tape from Washington.
- **Better Teachers.** We would give States and schools the resources and the flexibility to retain, recruit, train, and hire highly qualified teachers, demand accountability in return, and promote innovative teacher reforms such as teacher testing and merit pay. We would also enact legislation to help teachers maintain discipline and a danger-free educational environment, shield them from lawsuits when they do, and provide them a tax credit for classroom expenses they might incur.
- **More Affordable Education.** After years of disappointing vetoes, we would finally pass legislation to provide tax relief to families for education — including allowing 14 million families to contribute to an education savings account for K-12 expenses, as well as college.

### **Republicans would fight criminals — not law-abiding citizens.**

- **Crime.** We would focus on laws that target criminals, get tough on violent teens, and protect the rights of law-abiding citizens — and make sure those laws are enforced.

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